

Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

922512
 of 12



Statistical Reporting Service

Washington, D. C.

SS-221

April 20, 1961

Winter Wheat Shows Promise of High Yields

The Crop Reporting Board estimated the 1961 winter wheat crop as of April 1 at 1,099 million bushels, down 2 percent from the 1960 crop, but 31 percent above the 10-year average.

The indicated yield per seeded acre of winter wheat, at 25.0 bushels per acre, is exceeded only by the 1958 and 1960 crops.

The 1961 crop was planted under generally favorable conditions; it made good fall growth except in some Northern and Northwestern areas. Winter injury was small. In the mid-Atlantic and Southeastern areas the crop furnished good pasture and shows high yield prospects. Moisture supplies are good except in Nebraska, South Dakota and Montana.

Best Pastures Since 1946

Pasture conditions on April 1 were the best in 15 years, primarily as a result of the generally good moisture situation. Pastures were good in the South Atlantic and South Central Regions on April 1, furnishing more than the usual grazing. Central and Northern areas have good prospects while only average prospects prevail in Western States due to short winter moisture supplies (except in the Pacific Northwest).

Farm Stocks of Feed Grains Up From Last Year

The tonnage of feed grains stored on farms on April 1 was 2 percent above last year and a third above average. Corn stocks rose to a new high of 2.1 billion bushels, 1 percent above the former high for April 1 set last year. Sorghum stocks were moderately below last year's but were still the second largest of record for the date. Barley stocks were 5 percent above last April 1. Oats showed a relatively sharp 14 percent increase.

Food Grain Farm Stocks Are Up--Soybeans Down

Food grain stocks on farms on April 1 were 16 percent above average--a fourth larger than a year ago. Wheat stocks were a fourth more than on April 1, 1960. Over 40 percent more rye was stored on farms. Farm soybean holdings were sharply down from last year's record high, with the smallest April 1 stocks since 1956. Flaxseed stored on farms continued at about the same record low stocks as reported last year--about one half the average.

Stocks on Farms, April 1, Itemized

Wheat stocks on farms were 258 million bushels, up 26 percent from last year and 15 percent above average.

Corn stocks on farms are estimated at 2,070 million bushels--1 percent above the previous record of last year, but 39 percent above average.

Oats stocks are estimated at 483 million bushels--14 percent above last year, but 3 percent below average.

Barley stocks totaled 126 million bushels--5 percent more than last year and 25 percent above average.

Rye stocks are estimated at 7.4 million bushels--42 percent more than last year and 23 percent above average.

Flaxseed stocks were 5.4 million bushels--about the same as last year, but 49 percent below average.

Soybeans farm stocks, at 73 million bushels, were down 49 percent from last April and 7 percent below average.

Sorghum grain stocks totaled 108 million bushels--down 3 percent from the record April 1, 1960 stocks, but 44 percent above average stocks for April 1.

Spring Vegetable Crop Forecast This Year

Spring vegetable production is forecast at 8 percent below last year. Included in this forecast are crops usually accounting for three-fourths

Prices of Farm Products

Commodity	Average Prices received by farmers		Effective parity prices
	Feb. 15 1961	Mar. 15 1961	Based on data for Mar. 1961
Basic commodities:			
Cotton, Amer. upland (lb.)..... ct.	26.90	28.37	38.96
Wheat (bu.) dol.	1.81	1.80	2.39
Rice (100 lb.)..... dol.	4.88	4.95	6.04
Corn (bu.)..... dol.	1.00	1.01	1.62
Peanuts (lb.)..... dol.	10.8	10.8	13.0
Designated nonbasic commodities:			
Milkfat in cream (lb.)..... ct.	60.7	60.3	74.9
Milk, wholesale (100 lb.)..... dol.	4.31	4.20	5.13
Wool (lb.)..... ct.	² 39.9	² 40.2	75.2
Other nonbasic commodities:			
Barley (bu.)..... dol.	.859	.847	1.25
Cottonseed (ton)..... dol.	44.70	44.80	62.80
Flaxseed (bu.)..... dol.	2.61	2.68	3.81
Hay, baled (ton)..... dol.	21.20	20.60	25.40
Oats (bu.)..... dol.	.602	.593	.843
Potatoes (cwt.)..... dol.	1.80	1.63	2.47
Rye (bu.)..... dol.	.834	.845	1.48
Sorghum grain (100 lb.)..... dol.	1.48	1.52	2.48
Soybeans (bu.)..... dol.	2.48	2.68	2.90
Sweetpotatoes (cwt.)..... dol.	5.25	5.40	5.65
Oranges, on tree (box)..... dol.	3.54	3.45	2.41
Apples, for fresh use (bu.)..... dol.	2.60	2.68	2.60
Beef cattle (100 lb.)..... dol.	20.70	20.90	23.80
Calves (100 lb.)..... dol.	23.90	24.40	26.30
Hogs (100 lb.)..... dol.	17.60	17.10	21.40
Lambs (100 lb.)..... dol.	16.80	16.60	25.30
Chickens, all (lb.)..... ct.	17.1	16.4	25.2
Eggs (dozen)..... ct.	³ 39.4	³ 36.7	46.8

¹ Preliminary.

² Average local market price, excluding incentive payment.

³ Average of all eggs sold by farmers including hatching eggs and eggs sold at retail by farmers.

of the total spring production, excluding melons. Lower acreage for many crops is the primary cause of the decline. Lettuce, sweet corn, onions, asparagus, green peppers, snap beans, and carrots are expected to be substantially below last year's production. Increases in celery and cabbage production are expected. Preliminary acreage estimates for other spring crops show a 7 percent reduction from last year.

Processed Vegetable Acreage Increases

Prospective acreage of seven principal vegetable crops for processing this year is 9 percent more than in 1960 but 2 percent below average. All crops except spinach--down 4 percent--show acreage increases. Lima beans acreage is up 12 percent; snap beans, 7 percent; cabbage for kraut (contract), 6 percent; sweet corn, 9 percent; green peas, 13 percent; tomatoes, 7 percent. Intended acreage of all crops except peas and tomatoes is above average.

Statistical Series of Interest to Agriculture

Item	1960		1961		
	Mar.	Yr.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.
	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.	Mil.
Nonfarm employment, (civilian) ¹	59.7	61.0	59.8	59.9	60.5
Farm employment.....	6.0	7.1	4.9	5.3	6.0
Family	4.8	5.2	4.0	4.3	4.7
Hired	1.2	1.9	.9	1.0	1.3
Index numbers (1947-49 = 100)					
Industrial production ²	166	164	155	155	155
Total personal income payments ³	195	199	200	200	201
Weekly factory earnings ⁴	173	170	158	157	158
Average earnings of factory workers, per worker ⁴	172	172	170	170	171
Wholesale prices, all commodities ⁴	120	120	120	120	120
Farm commodities	90	89	90	90	90
Food, processed	107	108	110	110	110
Consumer price index ⁴	126	126	127	128	--
Food	118	120	121	121	--
Index numbers (1910-14 = 100)					
Prices received by farmers	241	238	241	244	243
Crops	222	221	218	221	224
Food grains.....	210	203	207	209	208
Feed grains and hay.....	153	151	146	150	150
Cotton	238	253	233	227	240
Tobacco.....	494	496	508	517	517
Oil bearing crops.....	213	214	231	250	264
Fruit	228	236	254	259	260
Commercial vegetables.....	249	234	214	213	213
Livestock and products.....	257	252	261	263	259
Meat animals.....	309	296	304	309	309
Dairy products.....	256	258	272	266	257
Poultry and eggs.....	153	158	165	169	160
Prices paid by farmers:					
All commodities	276	275	276	277	277
Used in living	289	290	291	291	290
Used in production.....	267	265	267	267	268
Commodities, interest, taxes, and wage rates (parity index).....	300	299	301	302	302
Farm wage rates, seasonally adjusted.....	632	631	635	635	635
Parity ratio (prices received to parity index).....	80	80	80	81	80

¹ Bureau of the Census.

² Federal Reserve Board.

³ Department of Commerce.

⁴ Bureau of Labor Statistics. Any figures not available at press time omitted.

Smaller Orange Crop

The 1960-61 orange crop is estimated at 119 million boxes--6 percent below last year and 2 percent below average. On April 1 about 56 percent of the crop was harvested; there were still 52.7 million boxes to be picked compared with 54.6 million a year ago. Expected production of Florida oranges increased one million boxes during March but was offset by a 1 million-box decrease in California. The Early, Midseason, and Navel orange harvest was about 97 percent complete by April 1; production is expected to total 63.4 million boxes--2 percent below last year but 1 percent above average. Valencia oranges are forecast at 56 million boxes--10 percent less than last year and 5 percent below average.

Grapefruit Production Near Average

Grapefruit production is estimated at 42.3 million boxes--2 percent more than last year but near average. By the end of March about 57 percent of the crop was in, leaving 14 million boxes to be picked. A year ago 76 percent of the crop had been harvested. Florida's Pink Seedless grapefruit production is estimated at 7 million

Livestock and Livestock Products

Item	Unit	Jan.-Feb. 1960	Jan.-Feb. 1961
<u>Dairy Production</u>			
Milk.....	Bil. lb.	¹ 30.1	¹ 30.1
Evaporated whole milk.....	Mil. lb.	269.8	274.0
Dry Nonfat milk solids (for human food)	Mil. lb.	308.7	302.4
Butter, creamery	Mil. lb.	238.8	238.3
Cheese, American	Mil. lb.	127.4	162.1
Ice cream.....	Mil. gal.	91.5	90.0
<u>Poultry Production</u>			
Eggs	Billions	¹ 16.2	¹ 15.6
Poultry meat ²	Mil. lb.	781	855
Canned poultry.....	Mil. lb.	50.0	91.0
Liquid egg	Mil. lb.	104.8	76.0
Dried egg (egg solids)	Mil. lb.	8.3	5.9
Frozen egg	Mil. lb.	68.0	45.1
Chicks hatched, total ³	Millions	¹ 628.6	¹ 721.3
Chicks hatched, broiler ³	Millions	¹ 495.5	¹ 549.6
Poultry hatched: ³			
Heavy breeds	Millions	¹ 24.0	¹ 31.9
Light breeds	Millions	¹ 2.4	¹ 2.8
<u>Meat Production²</u> (dressed weight)			
Beef.....	Mil. lb.	2,278	2,319
Veal.....	Mil. lb.	150	154
Pork	Mil. lb.	1,996	1,768
Lamb and mutton.....	Mil. lb.	128	135
Total red meat.....	Mil. lb.	4,552	4,376
<u>Slaughter²</u>			
Cattle	1,000 head	3,889	3,978
Calves.....	1,000 head	1,258	1,275
Hogs	1,000 head	14,788	12,817
Sheep and lambs.....	1,000 head	2,572	2,693

¹ Jan.-March.

² Commercial; excludes farm slaughter.

³ By commercial hatcheries.

boxes compared with 6.7 million last year. The lemon crop forecast, at 15.1 million boxes, is 17 percent less than last year.

Peach Prospects Good

On April 1 the Southern States showed prospects for another good peach crop. Condition of the crop was reported at 85 percent, a point higher than in 1959 and 1960.

Early Potato Crop Up; Late Spring Acreage Down

Early spring potato production looked like 19 percent above last year on April 1--17 percent above average. Growers planted 2 percent fewer acres of late spring potatoes than last year--15 percent less than average. California and Arizona indicate larger acreages; central and northern Alabama about the same; and all other areas expect smaller acreages.

Slightly More Milk

March milk production was estimated at 10,843 million pounds--2 percent above a year earlier and 6 percent above the 1950-59 average, and slightly above the previous record high for the month set in 1956.

Egg Production Up From A Year Ago

March egg production was 1 percent more than a year earlier as increased production in the West and South more than offset reductions in the North Atlantic and East North Central States.

Laying flock numbers were 3 percent smaller than a year ago and were the lowest of record for the month. Monthly rate of lay was up sharply from last year--the highest of record for March.

Prices Received Down 1 Point

The Index of Prices Received by Farmers declined 4 tenths of 1 percent to 243 percent of the 1910-14 average during the month ended March 15, according to the Crop Reporting Board. Seasonally lower prices for milk and eggs contributed most to the decline. There were also lower prices for hogs, potatoes, and broilers. Significant price increases were reported for cotton, soybeans, tomatoes, and cattle. The mid-March index was nearly 1 percent above a year earlier.

Prices Paid Index Unchanged

The Index of Prices Paid by Farmers remained unchanged from February. Higher prices paid for farm production goods were offset by a decline in prices of family living items. The Parity Index, at 302, was 1 percent above a year earlier.

Commodity Prices Received

Poultry and Eggs: With lower prices reported for eggs, commercial broilers and turkeys, the index dropped 5 percent from mid-February to 160 percent of the 1910-14 average, but was 5 percent above the March 1960 index. Eggs per dozen

averaged 36.7 cents, 7 percent below last month but 14 percent above a year earlier.

Dairy Products: In March producers received \$4.20 per cwt. for milk sold wholesale compared with \$4.31 a month earlier and \$4.19 in March 1960. Prices for milkfat in cream were down 1 percent, but milk retailed by farmers showed little change.

Cotton: Growers received an average price of 28.37 cents per pound for upland cotton in March. In late March the average price of middling inch cotton at the 14 spot markets was nearly a cent per pound higher than in early February.

Oil Crops: Sharply higher prices for soybeans

Cash Receipts from Farm Marketings, by States, February 1961¹

State	Livestock and products	Crops	Total
	1,000 dollars	1,000 dollars	1,000 dollars
Maine	9,816	7,581	17,397
New Hampshire.....	3,982	847	4,829
Vermont	8,959	807	9,766
Massachusetts	8,843	3,114	11,957
Rhode Island	1,270	548	1,818
Connecticut	8,101	4,025	12,126
New York	49,797	14,648	64,445
New Jersey	13,897	4,724	18,621
Pennsylvania	44,704	13,677	58,381
Ohio	51,471	19,114	70,585
Indiana	61,000	36,977	97,977
Illinois	94,316	90,021	184,337
Michigan	30,954	16,768	47,722
Wisconsin	88,795	8,452	97,247
Minnesota	90,846	33,935	124,781
Iowa	169,115	64,909	234,024
Missouri	53,729	12,326	66,055
North Dakota	11,845	18,851	30,696
South Dakota	37,674	11,607	49,281
Nebraska	67,116	45,487	112,603
Kansas	50,938	51,123	102,061
Delaware	5,065	1,221	6,286
Maryland	14,431	3,004	17,435
Virginia	16,193	7,025	23,218
West Virginia	4,707	1,267	5,974
North Carolina	23,694	10,686	34,380
South Carolina	8,463	4,173	12,636
Georgia	31,600	7,092	38,692
Florida	17,517	86,338	103,855
Kentucky	20,275	8,327	28,602
Tennessee	16,768	10,232	27,000
Alabama	22,125	4,359	26,484
Mississippi	19,524	7,136	26,660
Arkansas	16,304	10,523	26,827
Louisiana	11,227	4,517	15,744
Oklahoma	22,073	7,706	29,779
Texas	59,639	38,064	97,703
Montana	8,973	10,803	19,776
Idaho	14,528	13,378	27,906
Wyoming	3,968	1,627	5,595
Colorado	26,300	17,143	43,443
New Mexico	5,438	2,642	8,080
Arizona	10,137	11,811	21,948
Utah	8,850	1,538	10,388
Nevada	2,801	583	3,384
Washington	16,365	15,418	31,783
Oregon	13,368	7,033	20,401
California	85,379	70,961	156,340
United States	1,462,880	824,148	2,287,028
Same month, year ago	1,369,671	688,868	2,058,539

¹ All figures represent sales of farm products, plus Commodity Credit loans reported during the month minus Commodity Credit loans repaid during the month. For comparisons of cash receipts with earlier months and years, see issues of the Farm Income Situation.

Cash Receipts From Farming and Index of Volume of Farm Marketing, United States¹

	February 1961	March 1961
CASH RECEIPTS:	<i>Mil. dol.</i>	<i>Mil. dol.</i>
Total marketings and CCC loans ²	2,287	2,300
Livestock and products	1,463	1,700
Meat animals	819	
Dairy products	376	
Poultry and eggs	238	
Other	30	
Crops	824	600
Food grains	106	
Feed crops	277	
Cotton (lint and seed)	50	
Oil-bearing crops	96	
Tobacco	18	
Vegetables	91	
Fruits and tree nuts	113	
Other	73	
Government payments	22	
Grand total	2,309	
	1947-49 = 100	
VOLUME OF FARM MARKETINGS:		
All commodities	104	103
Livestock and products	118	138
Crops	86	58

¹ For Comparison with earlier months and years, see issues of the Farm Income Situation. ² Receipts from loans represent value of loans minus value of redemptions during the month.

Farm-Retail Price Spreads

Farm-Retail Spread and Farmer's Share of the Consumer's Dollar for Market Basket of Farm-food Products

Year and month	Retail cost ¹	Farm value ²	Farm-retail spread	Farmer's share
1960 average	1,052	\$ 408	\$ 644	39%
1960 Feb.	1,028	394	634	38%
1961 Jan.	1,066	420	646	39%
1961 Feb.	1,069	426	643	40%

¹ Retail cost of average quantities of farm foods purchased per urban wage-earner and clerical-worker family in 1952, calculated from retail prices collected by Bureau of Labor Statistics.

² Payment to farmers for equivalent quantities of farm produce minus imputed value of byproducts obtained in processing.

continued during March, advancing to \$2.68 per bushel, 35 percent of March 1960 prices, and the highest for any month since June, 1956. Flaxseed prices in March were 3 percent higher than a month earlier; peanut and cottonseed prices were virtually unchanged.

Potatoes: During March potatoes continued the downtrend from the November peak of \$2.00 per cwt. to \$1.63 per cwt.

Meat Animals: A decline in the average price of hogs and lambs offset the higher prices for other meat animals in March. Hog marketings at leading markets during the 4 weeks, ended March 18, were up 2.5 percent from the preceding 4 weeks, but were 5 percent below a year earlier. Cattle marketings were down 2.5 percent from the preceding 4 weeks, but about equal to a year earlier.

Moderate Rise in Prices Paid by Farmers

Feeder Livestock: Prices paid for feeder and stocker cattle and calves averaged 50 cents per 100 pounds higher in mid-March than a month earlier. Baby chick prices also advanced during the month.

Feed: Prices in mid-March were generally above a month earlier by about one-half of 1 percent; they were about the same as a year ago.

Food and Tobacco: Prices paid by farmers for food declined generally during the month ended March 15. Mid-March food and tobacco prices averaged about 2 percent higher than a year earlier.

Farm Wage Rates Only Slightly Up

Nation-wide farm wage rates on April 1 averaged very close to those of a year earlier. The composite rate per hour of \$0.757 compares with \$0.751 on April 1, 1960. Rates for most hiring arrangements averaged about 1 percent higher than a year earlier. This was the smallest annual change between April 1 rates since 1954.

